How They are Taught and What They Learn at Elwyn.

METHODS IN VOGUE THERE

Anticipated the Best in Use for Normal Children.

New York, May 27 .- The Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble-minded Children, one of the oldest and one of the most progressive institutions of its kind, has lately issued its forty-sixth annual report. The suggestions recently made that the board of education of New York city should provide special classes, such as exist in Europe and in several of our own to be mentally defective, gives an especial interest to such a report at this time. Dr. Walter E. Fernald, the superinten-

dent of the Massachusetta achool says. "The essentially educational character of the earlier institutions has been main tained, but the relations of the different parts of instruction are now better un erstood . . . Education as applied to the development of these feeble-minded child ren is now understood in its broadest ense, not as mere intellectual training, but as uniform cultivation of the whole being, . . . As now organized, into two deportments-the school, or educational, and the custodial. In the school department the children are instructed in the ordinary branches of the commo schools. As compared with the education of normal children it is a difference of degree and not of kind. . . The princi-ples of physiological training of the senses and faculties . . were formulated by Seguin, and elaborated and applied by

Richards and Howe years before the era

of the kindergarten and the dawn of the

new education. It would be difficult to estimate properly the influence of these original and successful methods of instructing the feeble-minded in suggesting and shaping the radical changes that have been made in the methods of modern primary teaching of normal children." The latest report from the Massachu setts institution abows that of 145 cases admitted within the year, 32 were admitted to the school department and 56 to the custodial department. The report for 1865 listinctly states that "in selecting cases for admission from the large number of applications on file, as far as possible the preference was given to young improvable cases of the school grade," The reports of the Syracusa state institution and the Pennsylvania training school indicate a similar policy. It is plain, therefore, that in these three institutions, and as a matter of fact it is true also for those more

department in importance New York, unlike most of the states, provides separate institutions for different classes of defectives; a school for teachs ble children at Syracuse, an naylum for the unteachable at Rome, a home for feeble-minded woman at Newark, and a clony for epstepties at Sonyea. Pennaylvania retains what is known as the colony plan. Both the school at Elwyn , already referred to, and the similar institution es ablished in 1897 at Polk, Pa., accommo grounds improvable and unimprovable cases, epileptics, and some cases of juvenlle insanity. Elwyn is, therefore, more fairly ripresentative than any of the New

recently established, the custofial or asy-

fum department is secondary to the school

The unaconstomed visitor to Elwyn is likely to alight at thelittle station, anticipating disagreeable experiences and painful sights. As he ascends Elwyn hill be comes upon groups of children happily wandering over the green slope or gathering flowers at the edge of the wood, Further on he passes a group of emorcile form-loys, contentedly busy with rake and hoe. The scene, showing that whatever the beauty of nature and contact with her can give to these children of mismortum is theirs, charms the spirit of de pression from the mind.

sides in a country noted for lovely scenery. The long line of buildings curved among the trees on the crest of the hill. The in stitution property of several hundred acresincludes fertile fields, orchards, gardens, porturesque scoodland, playgrounds, with paymens and sand-piles, and a beautiful

The department of the training school cupies the main building, one wing of which is used for the boys, the other for girls. A third of a mile away from the main building, and connected with it by a donkey tram-road, is the custodial department, its four binddings taken together wing known as Hillside. Half way between Hillside and the other group of buildings is the hospital. Colonies of boys Edgment and Sky Creet. Two cottages, Woodside and the Four Gables, furnish homes for some of the teachers. The 500 immates, together with officers, atten dants and other employees, form a community of about L100 people, a village with fig own station and post office, electric light plant and water supply, and practially its own governm

The children in the training school deregardless of age) are divided, the horsinto visits bearing such names as Wash-Statist, Lancoln, William, Seguin; the girds such as visits to the circus, birthday has circles known as Patth, Hope, Doro-day parties and dances in the hall. age or gradeof intelligence, childen who are much like other people will be companionable and helpful to one Under the beeches in E another. The exercise fosters a feeling of ground not concentrated by rimal b loyalty and comradeship, each group forming a family within the great institution sleeps Dr. Issue N. Kerlin, for thirty years family. The took take great pride in the officially the superintendent, inreality decoration of their club fooms. Every father of the institution at Elwyn. He child who care to can have some box or | saw it grow under his hand from a single proudly shown ton visitor; a hearded fel- ent dimensions. And, with its develo aw, maybe, shuffling up with a picture ment, came a corresponding improvembook or toy, a brighter one displaying some really ingenius or beautiful thing. ande with his own hands, individuality is taken into account to a degree one. Kerlin died, his associates mourned a might not expect in so large an institu- leader. With the exception of the uniform worn by the military companies formed by the girl at Edwyn docides upon the would of a ruffle or the trimming of a waist with as much interest as a woman of fashion puts into the selection of a win-

Individual attention to, of course, neces. eary inteaching this class of children, and the lower the grade the smaller the classes are made. The achieves are in charge of teen assistants. For ion years the post jumping into the Monongabels river. of princyipal nearless has been held by a native of Denmark or Norway, and Scandinavian methods have proved most este- Baker, one of the principals in the fam-

an hour a day in a room supplied with a large collection of objects and models. There are three kindergarten classes, the pupils being between six and twelve years of age instead of under six, as would be the case among normal children. The instruction in the common branches is similar to that given in the primary and lower grades of any school. The progress is, of course, much slower, but the results, attained by long and patient effort on the part of pupil and teacher, are often won derful. The delight of a child who comes to Elwyn incapable of any useful action when he is able to send home a letter written by himself and telling of his new life, he as pathetic as it is pleasant to see. A child who in a public school would have learned little or nothing, may be taught at Elwyn to read, to write, to know something of the geography and distory of our own country,, and to under-

stand the simpler arithmetical operations.

He comes from a world which has advantage of him, a society which constantly pushes him aside and leaves him behind.

He finds himself here in a world of his

equals, with some indeed less capable than

himself, whom he can help, a world

adapted to his weakness. In the new en-

vironment he loses his sense of infectority and defeat, and begins to develop. No book lessons, however, but manual and industrial training are the chief means to this end. "We learn by doing," is the motto of the institution paper Develop ment, printed by a corps of feeble-minded boys. It is also the key-note of the Elwyn method. The work in freehand drawing, designing, modelling and sloyd compare favorably with that or normal children and is wonderful when one learns from the Sweedish teacher what mental and physical disability her pupils have con quored while handling pencil and knife Benutiful needlework is done by the girls and classes made up of both boys and girls are taught cooking. The manual training is closely allied with the industrial work, some of the school children being employed in useful lubor after school hours, and many, after completing the school course, entering the industrial department, which includes the carpenter, painting, shoe, hammock, and mattress shops, the printing office, the laundry, the tailoring and sewing rooms, and the various branches of household labor

For seven years all the breadstuffs to

by six grown boys of the institution, no paid baker being employed. The industrial training of the immates is an important factor in the economy of the institution. The value of their labor is a strong argument in favor of the colony system, as opposed to the separate custody of low-grade cases, which makes necessary more paid service. Moreover, the training given these feeble-minded persons enables many of them to earn the cost of their maintenance, and therefore to remain at Elywn after the expiration of the term of years during which the are supported by the state. Others go out nto the world and earn a fiving. Not it frequently the marry, unfortunately for society. With very few exceptions , they need life-long care and supervision. Par ticularly is this so in the case of th The Girls' Cottage and similar homes elsewhere shelter but a fraction of the host of weak-minded women, who are almost sure to go estray if left without guardianship.

The custidial department is not left without educational supervision. In each building a teacher gathers around her all degree teachable, a strange and uncouth company, whom nevertheless she comes to leve. Beginning on cheap material, twine, paper and straw, the clu sy fingers and sluggish brains are slowly trained until rugs, buskets and other things are skilfully made. These build-ings, which the cusual visitor is never permitted to enter, shelter the most unfortu nate of human lives. And yet the sigh less, is less painful than one might expect. Comfortable and well cared for, they produce a very different impressifrom that which one would gain from Corner First and Main Sts., Wichita, Ke seeing them under the conditions from which most of them have been rescued.

The military organization in the training school has done wonders for the boys morally and physically. The drilling of Company A, the "crack" company, would do credit to any state militia, and so proud are the boys of their uniform that they Attorney strive never to disgrace it. It is a severe punishment to deprive them of wearing it. Every summer tents are pitched at Sky Crest, and the boys enjoy a season of real camp life. Sweedish gymnastics form part of the regular training for boys and girls The Elwyn band is in demand at fairs and entertainments in the vicinity, and HENRY HUTTMAN, the Elwyn baseball team has been known to defeat theteam in the neighboring

For an hour every evening the various clubs and circles are occupied with sewing, reading, games and light work of various kinds. In the lace-making class elaborate and beautiful work is done, th children handling with case satty or eighty bobbins. There little hunchback Jakie may be found teaching some great big awkward fellow the pattern he has to work on; for it is a rule that no one may learn a new patiern until he has taugh his old one to his classimate.

The schools are closed during July and August, but the young children are cured for in the summer schools, which are really out-of-door classes for nature-study and recreation, with a picute dinner as a

Space is lacking for more than a men tion of the amusement and entertainmen provided for the children all through the year, beginning with the annual dinner. tone Hall, with their charges, and including the Pourth of July and Christmas one erations, which attract many visitors to Elwyn, the yearly excursion to Port Desuch as visits to the circus, birthday partheir pleasures, as in their sorrows, their to compared of children of about the same affections, their interests, their faille, they

Under the beeches in Kerlin Park, in throughout the country in provision for the feeble-minded. New institutions took

New York, May 27 -- Thomas Bulley Aid. salled from Van Couver, B. C., on Setember 14, 1898, on a trip around the world, reached this city today on hour the steamer Lucanta from Liverpool. Mr. Abdrich spent about two months in Japan and visited remote parts of India during

Barbourville, Ky., May 25-Thomas or correspond. our Howard-Baker foud, has been assur- properly and faithfully cared for. Office Object teaching is a prominent feature sinuted by unknown persons while scated of the system, each case spending half on his porch at his home in Cury county. Building,

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what has failed.

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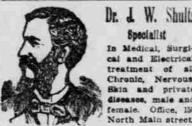
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